

**PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 13, 2007**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Carlson opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Committee members present: Chair Terry Carlson, Vice Chair Eugene Earney, Brad Schnitzler, Kristi Uphoff, Denise McDowall Seyko, Planning Commission Liaison Scott Marotz and Council Liaison Patricia May. Also Present: Public Works Director Michael Goebel, Greg Schlink of Bruggeman's and Dan Sabatka of RLK Engineering.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Member Schnitzler motioned to accept the July 9, 2007 minutes as presented. Seconded by Committee Member Earney, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

3. OLD BUSINESS

(The order of discussion was changed)

3B. REVIEW REVISED PRAIRIE MEADOWS PLAT

Mr. Schlink of Bruggeman Properties reviewed the history of the proposed Prairie Meadows II. Prairie Meadows II is a replat of a portion of Prairie Meadows I. Prairie Meadows II includes the portion of Prairie Meadows I located west of 172<sup>nd</sup> Street NW. The current application, Prairie Meadows II, includes 162.65 acres and is proposed to provide an additional 169 single family homes and a multifamily site for apartments or senior living. An employment center will also be provided through the expansion of the Big Lake Industrial Park by the City of Big Lake. The 38-acre site will provide opportunities for light industrial development in an architecturally-controlled environment. With the proposed changes, Prairie Meadows development will contain a total park area of 7.64 acres (including wetland areas and Bluff Park, which is located in Prairie Meadows I). Prairie Meadows II is proposing to contain two parks: Oaks Park and Gallus Park. Oaks Park is proposed to be located to the south of the Oaks, an exclusive residential neighborhood and will be a city park which will include play equipment, landscaping and irrigation. The developer will contribute the land and improvements in lieu of the park fees. Gallus Park is proposed to be located on the corner of Minnesota Avenue and 172<sup>nd</sup> Street NW. The park will be built and designed exclusively by the City of Big Lake. In lieu of paying park dedication fees, the developer plans to contribute the land, grading and necessary demolition. The proposed size of Gallus Park has been reduced from the original PUD of Prairie Meadows.

Originally, Gallus Park was proposed to be 12.63 acres, but it has been reduced in size to 4.19 acres. The reason for the size reduction was the addition of the single family lots along Preusse Lake. In addition, Village Green Park is no longer being proposed as this is the location where the City's Industrial Park is being expanded. Mr. Schlink also reviewed with the Committee other changes within the development, such as street alignments, smaller lots, 7 additional lots along the wetlands and the change of location of the townhomes. Discussion followed regarding the loss of upland park acreage from the original Prairie Meadows I PUD versus the proposed Prairie Meadows II PUD. Committee Member Schnitzler made a motion to recommend to City Council to keep Gallus Park as originally intended in the Prairie Meadows I PUD and if a reduction needs to occur in park land it should be reduced from Oaks Park. Seconded by Committee Member Earney, unanimous ayes, motion carried. Discussion continued. A motion was made Board Member Earney to recommend to City Council to review the original park agreement to understand what improvements were to be installed in the original agreement and to review the potential impacts any changes to this agreement may have to the parks in Prairie Meadows. Seconded by Committee Member Schnitzler, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

3A. COUNCIL APPROVED PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION  
FROM JULY 9, 2007 MEETING

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee that the Council approved the recommendations from the July 9, 2007 meeting. The picnic tables are built and have been installed in the parks. The Council has also authorized staff in approaching area landowners inquiring about purchasing additional land (13.37 acres) for the future Athletic Complex.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Public Works Director Goebel updated the Board on the skateboard park. Complaints are continuing from parents in regards to bad language, smoking and taking equipment into the park that does not belong. Discussion followed regarding possible solutions. Public Works Director Goebel will check with Sherburne County to see if they have Police Reserves who could patrol the park area.

5. STAFF UPDATE - None

6. NEW BUSINESS

6A. PETITION FOR SWING SET IN MITCHELL FARMS PARK

City residents put a petition together requesting a swing set be installed in Mitchell Farms Park. Public Works Director stated there is room for a swing set in Mitchell Farms Park and money in the budget for a swing set. Mitchell Farms Park was on the list for improvements this year. The improvements included trash cans, a basketball court and picnic tables. Board Member Carlson made a motion to install the swing set in lieu of the basketball court. Seconded by Council Liaison May, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

6B. SPECIAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 6, 2007 AT 4:00 P.M. FOR NORTHSTAR  
CORRIDOR GROUNDBREAKING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The groundbreaking/anniversary celebration for the Northstar Corridor Maintenance Facility was postponed due to the I-35 W bridge collapse tragedy. The events have been rescheduled on September 6, 2007. The Northstar Corridor Development Authority will again hold their monthly meeting in Big Lake as well beginning at 4:00 p.m. As there may be a quorum of Parks Advisory Board Members in attendance, staff is recommending all Boards call for a Special Gathering to ensure compliance with the Open Meeting Law requirement. Board Member Carlson called for a Special Gathering, September 6, 2007 starting at 4:00 p.m. Seconded by Board Member Earney, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

7. ADJOURN

Committee Member Schnitzler motioned to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. Seconded by Committee Member Earney, unanimous ayes, motion carried.